

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
B63B27/14 B63B27/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
B63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 225 753 A (* OFFSHORE DESIGN ENGINEERING LIMITED) 13 June 1990 (1990-06-13)	14-25, 27-31, 35-42, 50-53, 59-61
Y	the whole document	1-13, 26, 27, 32-34, 36, 43-49
Y	US 6 435 795 B1 (BRADY DAVID J) 20 August 2002 (2002-08-20) abstract; figures	1-3, 7

-/--

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 November 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/11/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Moya, E

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/182741 A1 (PRINS REINOUT KLAAR NORFOLC JAAP) 2 October 2003 (2003-10-02) paragraph '0015! - paragraph '0030!; figures	1-13, 26, 32-34, 43-49
Y	GB 2 246 992 A (ALAN * CUNDALL) 19 February 1992 (1992-02-19) page 6, line 21 - line 26; figures	26, 32-34, 43-49
X	GB 2 175 860 A (* LINKLETTERS PATENT SHIP FITTINGS CO LTD) 10 December 1986 (1986-12-10)	1-3, 6, 7, 14-18, 20, 22, 38-41, 50-61
Y	the whole document	8-13, 23-27, 36, 43-49
X	FR 2 465 640 A (CHAMBON CIE STE GLE REMORQ. TRAVA) 27 March 1981 (1981-03-27)	1-3, 5-7, 10, 14-20, 22, 33, 34
Y	the whole document	8, 9, 11-13, 23-26

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
GB 2225753	A	13-06-1990	NO	894730 A	05-06-1990
US 6435795	B1	20-08-2002	NONE		
US 2003182741	A1	02-10-2003	AU	9438801 A	22-03-2002
			BR	0113414 A	29-07-2003
			CA	2421428 A1	14-03-2002
			EP	1315651 A1	04-06-2003
			WO	0220343 A1	14-03-2002
			NL	1016111 C2	07-03-2002
GB 2246992	A	19-02-1992	NONE		
GB 2175860	A	10-12-1986	NONE		
FR 2465640	A	27-03-1981	NONE		